

School Begins August 22; Are You Ready?

Parents: Get Active at Your School!

It's never too early to reach out to other parents in your child's school. Contact the school to connect with parent leaders or volunteer to help.

If you participate in your school's Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), training sessions will be held **Aug. 10, 13 and 30**, and **Sept. 10**, for new and returning LSAT members on the Comprehensive School Plan. For more information, visit the DCPS website (www.dcps.dc.gov), e-mail lsat.help@dc.gov or call 202-724-7621.

Return Your Enrollment Forms Today

The enrollment packet can be returned at any point before school starts! Accurate enrollment numbers help us plan for a successful school year by allowing schools to plan for your school's operations, such as scheduling and purchasing supplies. Enrollment forms are available from your child's school or online at www.dcps.dc.gov. For more information, call your child's school or the DCPS central office at 202-478-5738.

Enroll Your Child in DCPS Afterschool Programs

To enroll your child in afterschool services at select DCPS elementary schools and educational campuses, please visit your school the week of **Aug. 15** to enroll. Schools offering DCPS sponsored afterschool programs can be found on the DCPS website. Some families at select DCPS elementary schools and educational campuses will be required to pay increased co-payments for afterschool programs in the next school year. For more information about afterschool programs and co-pays, please visit the DCPS website.

Early Childhood Transition Week Begins Aug. 22-24

Preschool and pre-K children begin the 2011-2012 school year with parent conferences **Aug. 22-24**, as part of Early Childhood Transition Week (ECTW). During those three days, students will not attend school. Your child's teacher will reach out to you and set up a time to meet. Then, from **Aug. 25-26** children will come to school in two small groups (see below for the date your child will attend). For more information, visit the DCPS website.

- Children whose last name begins with **A-K** attend school on **Thursday, Aug. 25**.
- Children whose last name begins with **L-Z** attend school on **Friday, Aug. 26**.
- **All preschool and pre-K children come to school starting Monday, Aug. 29.**

Children enrolled in Montessori programs may have a different transition schedule. Contact your school for more information.

Make Sure Your Child's Immunizations are up-to-date

Here are some immunization reminders for the 2011-2012 school year:

- Schedule a visit with your child's physician soon if your child's immunizations are not up-to-date. Some immunizations require more than one dose with return visits.

- For a reminder of the immunizations required by age, view the flier in your enrollment packet (also available on the DCPS website www.dcps.dc.gov).
- DC law now requires a Universal Health Certificate be submitted every year for all children at every grade level. Each student must submit a Universal Health Certificate that documents a physical completed within the past 365 days.
- Age-appropriate immunizations should be documented on the Universal Health Certificate.

If Your Child has Special Needs ...

If your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) determined that he or she is eligible for transportation during the 2010-2011 school year, make sure that the correct transportation information has been submitted to your school. Some information may have changed over the school year, so please make sure that your school has the most current pick-up and drop-off addresses and school location.

For Students With Disabilities ...

If you know or suspect that your child has a disability which significantly impacts a major life activity and may need accommodations under Section 504, contact your child's teacher, your school's 504 coordinator, or call 202-299-2005 with any questions.

Discuss the School Behavior Code With Your Child

Students and parents should review the DCPS student behavior code, Chapter 25, as a guide to DCPS expectations for student behavior. Items in Chapter 25 include guidelines on the following:

- Monitoring and implementation of school-based prevention and intervention strategies
- Application of due process with relationship to Chapter 25 discipline code

For more information on the discipline code, call 202-299-2005 or visit the DCPS website.

Heads up: The Common High School Application is Coming

For the 2012-2013 school year, students will be able to apply to all specialized high schools with the Common High School Application. Those schools are: Banneker SHS, Columbia Heights EC, Ellington School of the Arts, McKinley Technology HS, Phelps HS, and School Without Walls. All specialized schools will have a common application deadline, and students can apply to multiple schools using a single on-line form. More information will be available at schools throughout the fall.

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